

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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WINSTON, N. C.

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THE CROSS MARK.

The cross mark on your paper indicates that the time for which you subscribed has or is about to expire. It is to give notice so your subscription may be renewed. If the subscription be not renewed the name will be dropped from the list, but we want every one to renew and bring a friend along too.

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—It costs 3.6 per cent. to collect the U. S. Internal revenue. The collections for the fiscal year ending June 30th, amounted to \$116,902,869, an increase of \$4,000,000 over the corresponding period of the year previous.

—The Richmond & Danville Railroad company, who still have fifteen years to run on the lease of the North Carolina road, have made a proposition for an extension of the lease for twenty-five years, after the present lease expires.

—If the money that goes out of North Carolina every year for meat and bread, and household and farm implements, all of which could be made at home, were kept at home what a different story of prosperity North Carolina could tell.

—The Supreme court of this State has decided in the case of the Capital Club at Raleigh, on appeal, that the steward of the club cannot dispense liquor to members of the club without violation of the prohibition law now in effect in Raleigh.

—A California Judge has sentenced two prize fighters to prison, one for three months the other for six weeks, for engaging in a slugging match. Here is a commendable example for other Judges, save that the months and weeks ought to have been years.

—The estate left by ex-President Arthur is estimated at between \$200,000 and \$400,000. It is said that he saved while President, \$25,000 a year of his salary. His son Allan and daughter Nellie have \$100,000 in their own right left by their mother, who died in 1879.

—Mr. L. E. Horne, residing about three miles from Wadesboro, ten years ago dug a well on his place sixty feet deep, but failing to get water abandoned it. The well remained dry until the earthquake of August 31st, since when it has had twenty-five feet of water in it.

—Col. A. Y. Stokes, a native of Caswell county in this State, but for forty years a resident of Richmond, Va., where he accumulated a large fortune in business, died suddenly last Friday at his home in Goochland county where he has resided for the past year. He took an active interest in railroad matters and was, until 1882, a large stockholder and one of the controlling spirits of the Richmond and Danville company.

—A new process of extracting the juice of the sorghum cane for making sugar has been successfully tried in Kansas. Soaking is resorted to instead of crushing the cane between rollers, and thus nearly all the juice is secured when by the other method rarely seventy per cent. was.

—Louis Bagger & Co., solicitors of patents, Washington, D. C., write us that 29 patents bearing date of 16th inst. were granted to citizens of Southern States, among them one to H. P. Jones, of Hillsboro, N. C., for danger signal, one to J. J. Thornton & P. Hubbard, Greensboro, for bosom board, and one to Frank Vaughn, of Elizabeth City, for car coupling.

—The wheat crop of the world for 1886 is estimated at 2,122,336,665 bushels, a slight increase over the crop of '85, which was 2,114,568,752. The demand for consumption was 2,183,500,000. According to the U. S. Department of Agriculture the deficiency last year was 70,000,000, and about 60,000,000 bushels this year. This being so, wheat ought to hold its own in price.

—Ex-President Chester A. Arthur, who has been ill with a complication of diseases for a year or more, died at his home in New York last Thursday morning. President Cleveland and several members of his cabinet attended the funeral which took place Monday, the remains being interred in the Rural cemetery, the family burying ground, at Albany. He was fifty-six years of age.

—The farmers of South Carolina think they ought to have an Agricultural College, and express their sentiments to that effect for the benefit of the incoming legislature. The farmers of North Carolina, too, ought to have an Agricultural College, and would have if the land scrip donated by Congress was applied as it was intended to be applied, instead of being used for the benefit of the State University, which could and should get along without it.

—Fire Tuesday, 16th, destroyed the principal business block in Durham, with Parrish's warehouse, the largest in Durham, and some other buildings, inflicting a loss of about \$300,000. The fire originated in the rear of Atwater's store, it is supposed either from a defective flue or a kerosene lamp. The only means of fighting the fire was a chemical engine which proved useless. As thriving a town as Durham should not be without water works, and better methods of protection from fires.

—Fayetteville was saved from destruction by fire on 18th inst. by the heroic conduct of a little boy named John P. Moore. A large frame building was burning, throwing burning brands in all directions under a high wind, one of which fell upon the roof of one of the principal business blocks. There was no ladder to reach the roof, and the house caught fire, with the high wind the city was doomed. The fire engine was disabled with a bursted flue. The question was how to reach and extinguish the fire which the brand had lighted on the roof, without a word the little fellow threw off his coat and shoes, flew up a tree which spread some of its branches over the roof, climbed out on a projecting limb, dropped upon the roof, tore up the burning shingles, in the presence of hundreds of people who stood cheering the little hero, and saved the house and the town. Fayetteville should remember that boy.

STRANGE, BUT TRUE!

Mrs. Margaret Stewart, who lives near Five Forks, Stokes county, had been ill some time up to last Sunday morning, (November 14,) and at about 1 o'clock she apparently died. Her relatives and friends made arrangements for her burial on Monday. On Sunday night some neighbors gathered to sit with the corpse and on Monday morning, about 2 o'clock, one of the watchers having occasion to adjust some article of clothing about the body discovered signs of life. The body was taken out of the coffin and a doctor sent for. Mrs. Stewart having been vigorously rubbed, came to, and at last accounts there was hopes of final recovery. The above comes to us from a gentleman who saw Mrs. Stewart come out of the trance. —Winston Republican.

—R. M. Gibson, colored, who lives in the southwestern part of the city brought into our office this morning a fine pear of the second crop, which he pulled from the tree this morning. —Greensboro Workman.

COUNTRY ROADS.

Not long after the first issue of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER we discussed the wretched condition of country roads generally in North Carolina, and the necessity of adopting some system which would give us better roads. We have demanded in the name of the farmers of the State, as one of the means that might be adopted to accomplish this, that the penitentiary convicts, which have for years been hired out to railroad companies at nominal wages, be employed in constructing and improving our common highways, and kept at such work until the State has a system of roads, of which she may be proud, instead of no system, of which she ought to be ashamed. Outside of the level, sandy lands of the east, where possibly the character of the land in certain localities may furnish good roads with little work or care, there is not a road in the State which at some portion of the year is not practically useless because of the difficulty of hauling loads over them, and some that are so the greater portion of the year including that portion when the farmer needs them most to market what he has to sell. The press of the State, we are glad to see, has, with a few exceptions, taken up the discussion of this matter, substantially endorsing our views, and favoring the employment of the convicts on our public roads. The Salisbury Watchman in a strong editorial says:

"The greatest rebuke to our civilization is the utter want of respectability in our public highways. A change in the laws that would enable the counties to employ criminals would have a good effect. First, on the criminals themselves, in giving them good open air exercise and thus preserving their health, and secondly, it would be a much needed relief to the honest, industrious farmer, who, in addition to his labors and annual taxes, is required to work the roads. The counties are obliged to keep the roads up, and also to feed and care for criminals. In any sense, it seems just and right that the county should command the services of such criminals to do such public work as does not conflict with the trades of law abiding people, and especially so when such service will undoubtedly tend to the comfort and convenience of the whole people."

Commenting upon this, the Wilmington Star, one of the ablest papers in the State, says:

"If a fair estimate for the whole State could be made as to the difference in cost to the people of a good system of roads and a bad system there would be no hesitation on the part of legislators to make a radical change in the entire system of road working."

"We venture the opinion that one of Capt. Southerland's best draught horses can pull more dead weight from Wilmington to Wrightsville Sound, a distance of nine miles, than the four best horses in any of the upper counties can pull over the public roads after the rains and snows of winter have set in, and all because of the excellent turnpike to Wrightsville and the awful mud of the upper roads. Then multiply by as many loads as are hauled in all the State over bad roads and you will see what a tremendous saving there would be in the way of cost if all the roads were in excellent repair. Then to estimate the loss by bad roads you must consider also the wear and tear of animals, wagons, harness, loss of time, &c."

"We do not see at present any objection to using the penitentiary convicts for the building of county roads. Then there are the county prisoners that might be used in the same way and to great advantage."

It may not be practicable to construct such a system of roads as the shell road referred to by our contemporary, but good hard roads, which can be kept in good condition for purposes of travel and trade are practicable, and can be had at one-fourth of the cost of bad roads. While the farmers of the State feel the want of good roads and suffer in pocket every year because they have them not, others, not farmers, suffer too, especially the merchant, whose warehouses are packed and shelves loaded with goods waiting for the country purchaser who cannot come because the mud is too deep for him to drive to town. The merchant has his thousands of dollars invested in stock, with bills maturing which he expected to meet

out of sales, which are not made. Hundreds of merchants in North Carolina towns have felt this pressure, and many have been driven out of business unable to meet their obligations because of (strange reason) too much mud on country roads. Everybody in the State is interested, directly or indirectly, in good roads, the farmer, the merchant, the mechanic, the common laborer, all, but especially the farmer, for the result of his year's labor must be hauled to town for sale, and if he must take four days to do what could be done in two and employ four horses to do what one could do it is that much of a tax in addition to what he has already to pay for the privilege of laboring and sweating during the spring and harvest to produce crops that pay him but poorly at best.

RUTS. *House*

It is a hard thing to get people out of ruts. Generally they are disposed to run in them as a wagon wheel does. Hence innovations are slow to be accepted and nearly always meet with more or less opposition. Too many people are content to follow in the old way of doing, without ever asking whether there be another or a better way. Among other relics of antiquity the rail fence still lingers and seems to be treasured by some as something which cannot under any circumstances be parted with, and yet the rail fence is one of the greatest nuisances that sires ever handed down to their sons. They cost ten times as much as they are worth, and the man that has them on his farm pays an annual tribute in time spent in repairing, in loss of land taken up by them, in weeds protected by them to seed the farm, and in other ways more than the value of the whole fence, if fence of any kind be necessary. In labor and in timber it costs hundreds of dollars to fence a small farm, thousands of dollars to fence a large one. The rails rot, winds blow them down, cattle knock them down, and they must be constantly watched to be kept in good condition. And what for? All to keep a few straggling cattle or hogs out. How much better, and what a saving it would be, in time, labor, timber and money, to fence these few cattle and hogs in instead of letting them run at large and compelling a whole community to fence them out. There are many counties in North Carolina where the traditional fence once stood, where it stands no more, where a fence, save a neat fence about the house and garden, is not to be seen. And they are gone to stay gone. The people would no more think of restoring them than they would of eating the rails. They have learned the benefit of being without them. They are saved the expense of fencing and keeping fences in repair; by being kept up and attended to their stock is improving, there are no squabbles among neighbors about trespassing stock. They have gotten out of that rut and wonder that they ran in it so long. But there are people who still cling to it and will not be happy if they can't gaze upon that old worm fence at morn and eve and spend a great portion of their days fixing it up after somebody or something has knocked it down, and in trying to kill the weeds that from secluded places in the fence corners are scattered over the farm. These people are running in the ruts. Their children will get out.

FOREST FIRES.

Another correspondent at Burgaw writes us as to the disastrous fires which have been devastating that section. He says that they originated on the line of the W. & W. R. R. about one mile from Burgaw and were caused by a tramp or organ grinder. The fire spread toward the West leaving a blackened trail behind it and destroying everything perishable in its course. It was last heard from near South W. shington, having destroyed in its progress numerous tar kilns, turpentine farms, fences, out houses &c., and entailing great damage to stock and wild animals. —Wilmington Review.

—There has not been enough rain here to wet the ground good since the great earthquake shock of August 31st. —We have seen some apples, sweet potatoes and cabbage raised in this county this year that would be hard to beat anywhere. Verily this is a great country. —Hendersonville Times.

GOOD METHODS.

Some farmers are successful, others are not. Some live well, have the comforts and luxuries of life around them, others live hard, work hard, have few of the comforts and none of the luxuries. Some have a better start, perhaps, than others, better farms, and are better equipped, but it will be found that the men who succeed, who live well and make money are men of method, men who believe in and have a system of management, men who think on what they are doing, and do nothing at hap-hazard. The speculator, dealer in futures, stock jobbers may take chances, but there is no chance work with the farmer. Nature establishes laws which are imperative, as to what may be produced in certain climates and on certain lands, while the laws of supply and demand regulate the prices and consequently the profit on what is produced. The thoughtful and successful farmer, while recognizing nature's laws, will also give heed to the law of supply and demand that he may not waste his time in cultivating what is already a drug upon the market, and will consequently cause loss to him. If experience prove that there is more money in an acre of grass than there is in an acre of cotton, the wise farmer will give some attention to grass and less to cotton; if one acre of potatoes will yield twice, three or four times as much as an acre of tobacco the wise farmer will give more attention to potatoes and less to tobacco; if one good cow is more profitable than two poor cows, the wise farmer will keep one good cow instead of two poor ones; if the farmer can save money and feel independent by raising his own family supplies and feed for his stock himself, the wise farmer will raise them instead of buying when it may sometimes be hard to get the money to buy from what he has to sell. The man of method thinks of all this, lives well, makes and saves money, the man without method does not, works hard, lives hard and is always run to the throat latch to make ends meet, and then don't always do it.

THREE CROPS.

Capt. C. W. Hollowell, near Elizabeth city raised three crops of Irish potatoes this year from the same piece of ground, as we gather from the following in the Economist:

"I send you three samples of Irish potatoes, raised on the same ground this year. The 1st, planted 6th of March and dug the 13th of June, the second planted the 14th of June and dug the 14th of September. The 3rd planted the 14th of September and dug the 8th of November. The season for the 1st crop was all we could ask for, until the 1st of June when the rains began. For the second crop I never saw a season so unfavorable for the Irish potato crop—entirely too wet the whole time and for the third crop, hardly a drop of rain for eight weeks. The three samples will show for themselves. I am satisfied we can with an average season make three full crops on the same land. Old mother earth is very kind to us, and if we will only do our part we need never want for a potato."

The Irish potato grows to perfection and in great abundance when properly cultivated, throughout North Carolina and yet there is not a town in the State that does not import Irish potatoes from the North at twice the cost of home production. It looks strange, to say the least of it, to see people living in a State where three crops of potatoes can be raised in one season, buying from States where more than one crop in a season is an impossibility.

—The Goldsboro Oil Mills, that have become noted for the unusual excellence of the oil they turn out, are now operating their refinery also, and it works admirably. We were shown a sample of the refined oil yesterday. It is as crystal clear and golden as the purest olive oil and finds ready sale as rapidly as it can be turned out. —Goldsboro Argus.

—The bulk of the cotton crop has already been removed from the fields. This early removal is due to the unprecedented favorable harvest of season this year. —The wife of Daniel Bateman, colored, living about one mile from Plymouth, gave birth to triplets on Monday last, all boys, and at last accounts all three were living, so says the Sun. —Wilmington Progress.